



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending May 13, 2007

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Excellent week for Field Work: Farmers were very busy throughout Pennsylvania, while trying to catch up on several farm activities. Warmer weather and sunny skies allowed better days during the planting season, as well as the emergence and growth of several crops. A few showers later in the week prevented the soil from becoming too dry. Cooler air from the showers frosted over during nighttime in some areas. Alfalfa weevils have made their presence, stripping several fields. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included spreading manure, fertilizer, and lime, preparing the ground for no till planting, hauling manure, spring plowing, cleaning barnyards, cutting hay, and planting corn, potatoes, soybeans and oats.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 13, 2007

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
3	32	56	9

Crops: Sixty-two percent of the state's corn crop has been planted. This is 11 percentage points behind this time last year, but 2 points above the five-year average. Last week farmers made some very strong attempts to get caught up with corn plantings. The planted crop is 30 percentage points farther along than the previous week. Pennsylvania's corn crop is now 21 percent emerged, right along with the five-year average. Conditions are showing that 84 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. Nineteen percent of the state's soybeans have been planted, slightly trailing last year's estimate and the five-year average. Ninety-one percent of the oats in the state have now been planted. Oats planted is now ahead of the five-year average by 1 percentage point. Forty-four percent of the planted oats have emerged, 20 points behind this time last year and 18 points behind the five-year average. Eighty-five percent of the winter wheat is in good or excellent condition, 8 percentage points higher than the previous week. Twenty-two percent of the wheat is now in the heading stage, only 4 percentage points behind the five-year average. Barley headed increased significantly to 63 percent. Despite the amazing progress, barley headed is still well behind this time last year. Fifty-nine percent of the potato crop has been planted. This is 13 points behind last year, but is in-line with the 5-year average. Sixty-nine percent of tobacco has been planted. This is also running behind both the five-year average and this time last year. Seventy-five percent of the alfalfa standing is in good or excellent condition. Seventy-four percent of timothy hay standing is in good or excellent condition. Ninety-six percent of the hay made was in good or excellent condition as 13 percent of the first cutting of alfalfa is

complete. One hundred percent of the peaches are in full bloom, while the cherries and apples are not far behind at 99 percent. All three are far ahead of their five-year averages.

Livestock: Even after the brief showers, pasture soils had no problem drying out. Many farmers were pleased with the grass growth. Overall pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 4%, poor 7%, fair 25%, good 43%, and excellent 21%.

U.S. as of May 6, 2007: Fieldwork continued through week's end in the Great Lakes States and the eastern Corn Belt, but planting continued to run well-behind normal. Warmer than normal conditions prevailed nearly nationwide, as temperatures generally averaged 2 to 10 degrees F above normal. Stormy weather continued to surge into the West at mid-week, leaving a nearly unbroken path of precipitation from the Northwest to the southern Plains to the Mid-Atlantic States.

Corn: Planting advanced 30 percentage points to 53 percent complete, behind last year's 67 percent and the 63 percent average. Good progress was made during the week throughout the Corn Belt, but most States continued to lag behind last year and normal. By week's end, 14 percent of the crop had emerged, compared with 23 percent last year and the 20 percent average.

Soybeans: Planting was finally underway in all States, with 10 percent of the intended acreage in the ground by week's end, compared with 17 percent both last year and average. In the Corn Belt and most other States, growers lagged behind their normal pace with 14 percent or less planted.

Winter Wheat: The rate of development slowed somewhat during the week, with 35 percent of the crop at or beyond the heading stage, compared with 52 percent last year and the 43 percent average. Condition ratings showed very little change for the third consecutive week, as 57 percent of the crop was rated good to excellent.

Small Grains: Barley planting, at 68 percent complete, was 16 points ahead of last year, and 10 points ahead of the 5-year average. Twenty-eight percent of the crop had emerged, 12 points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of normal.

Oat growers had planted 81 percent of their acreage, compared with 86 percent last year and the 84 percent average. In all spring-planting States except Nebraska, growers made significant progress during the week, but planting continued to lag behind the normal pace in most States. Forty-eight percent of the crop had emerged, 14 points behind last year and 12 points behind normal.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 13, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 13, 2007					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	84	38	60	6	0.10	2	3.10	-1.50	18	156	56	424
Franklin	86	36	61	7	0.12	3	5.79	0.74	21	192	93	475
Meadville	81	37	62	9	0.08	2	2.73	-2.07	21	208	128	485
Mercer	84	37	60	6	0.08	2	5.46	0.62	19	202	98	479
Springboro	83	31	59	5	0.07	2	4.96	0.51	26	138	30	397
Warren	86	33	60	6	0.22	2	5.20	0.11	20	141	51	404
North Central												
Bradford Region	81	28	57	7	0.15	2	4.67	-0.27	22	108	55	336
Emporium	87	33	60	8	0.31	2	5.41	0.24	20	145	82	419
Kane	83	28	56	6	0.14	2	5.79	0.54	22	76	25	301
Laporte	77	37	59	4	0.49	2	5.32	0.47	23	116	6	358
Lock Haven	85	36	61	6	1.30	2	5.08	0.55	16	196	72	480
Port Allegany	84	29	57	5	0.05	2	4.68	0.10	20	98	28	332
Renovo	88	36	62	6	0.85	3	5.43	0.90	16	198	74	481
Ridgway	83	30	56	5	0.30	2	5.31	0.14	20	104	41	357
Stevenson Dam	87	35	60	8	0.23	2	4.80	-0.37	18	158	95	427
Towanda	84	32	59	4	0.25	2	4.35	0.02	22	113	1	360
Wellsboro	83	31	57	7	0.40	2	4.58	0.98	17	108	53	339
Williamsport	85	37	63	6	0.34	2	3.98	-0.78	18	225	61	533
Northeast												
Hawley	84	30	59	7	0.77	2	6.66	1.60	15	101	31	353
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	84	37	63	7	0.59	2	5.07	0.65	19	195	60	482
Susquehanna	83	32	59	8	0.36	2	5.38	0.11	19	115	54	367
West Central												
Butler	85	34	60	5	0.00	0	3.95	-0.86	17	202	83	484
New Castle	87	37	61	6	0.30	1	3.00	-1.42	15	224	116	516
Slippery Rock	85	37	61	7	0.07	1	4.05	-0.52	19	230	135	516
Central												
Altoona/Blair	83	37	63	6	0.65	2	3.71	-0.91	15	240	91	522
DuBois	81	36	61	6	0.19	1	4.76	-0.15	21	194	94	466
Lewistown	84	37	61	4	1.53	2	5.23	0.67	15	223	40	517
Middletown	82	40	64	5	0.43	2	3.74	-1.24	12	280	65	599
Prince Gallitzi	84	30	59	6	0.42	2	5.16	-1.03	21	161	71	420
Selinsgrove	82	36	61	5	0.68	2	4.27	-0.43	17	175	30	460
State College	84	40	64	8	0.40	3	4.55	0.23	16	244	112	532
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	83	35	62	5	0.05	1	6.38	1.12	16	225	54	525
Lehighton	81	36	61	4	0.05	2	5.69	0.64	18	176	15	464
Matamoras	84	31	59	4	0.14	2	7.17	1.39	17	138	8	411
Mt_Pocono	78	31	60	9	0.08	2	6.95	0.97	20	133	83	383
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	84	43	65	9	0.00	0	4.42	-0.52	16	331	179	639
Derry	86	36	62	7	0.00	0	7.16	2.24	14	224	106	504
Myersdale	82	28	56	1	0.03	1	3.43	-2.34	17	123	6	372
Mount Pleasant	84	31	60	7	0.00	0	4.63	-1.19	17	212	122	505
Pittsburgh Intl	84	38	63	6	0.00	0	4.69	0.11	15	298	129	601
Connellsville	87	37	63	6	0.00	0	4.01	-1.54	19	267	90	571
Waynesburg	86	33	61	5	0.00	0	3.99	-1.10	18	230	93	528
South Central												
Biglerville	84	37	63	4	1.39	2	4.37	-0.55	11	258	44	570
Everett	81	30	58	2	0.74	2	4.64	-0.25	14	155	19	431
Hanover	82	35	62	3	0.64	2	4.62	-0.30	13	246	32	549
Harrisburg_AP	84	37	64	5	0.52	2	3.07	-1.91	11	271	53	593
South Mountain	79	34	59	2	0.97	2	5.02	0.40	14	187	43	462
York	83	33	61	2	1.06	3	5.08	-0.03	15	233	12	543
Southeast												
Green Lane	82	37	62	5	0.73	2	8.32	2.88	17	230	72	531
Hamburg	84	38	64	8	0.11	2	7.93	2.11	14	255	134	562
West_Chester	84	33	61	2	1.28	1	9.52	3.87	12	227	21	524
Lancaster	80	37	63	5	0.36	2	5.42	0.43	13	240	65	549
Neshaminy Falls	82	36	60	3	0.36	1	11.33	5.43	15	198	28	485
New Holland	83	38	63	5	0.40	1	6.24	1.25	13	268	93	570
Philadelphia	84	42	66	5	0.39	1	9.44	4.23	12	319	79	651
Philadelphia NE	83	40	65	4	0.36	1	10.74	5.53	15	307	67	639
Reading	83	38	64	7	0.06	1	4.99	-0.64	14	266	108	578
Valley Forge Na	82	32	62	2	0.45	2	8.89	3.41	16	223	-5	532
Willow Grove	81	38	63	5	0.36	2	8.46	2.56	15	265	95	572

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney (FSA) - Adams County had a nice week of weather. Daytime temps were around 70 degrees and some days were warmer. Nighttime temps were 45-50 but last evening (Sun-13th into Mon-14th) dipped to 30 degrees. Thursday into Friday various amounts of rainfall were received around the county in a thunderstorm. 1 1/2" fell around Arendtsville, while most other areas received 0.75". Saturday afternoon/evening another 0.5" to .75" of rainfall fell quickly in a thunderstorm.

Corn and soybeans continue to be planted. Some corn has emerged now since rainfall from last week was received. Field work continues to be done with manure hauling and plowing. Wheat, barley, and rye are being chopped for forage along with first cutting of alfalfa. Other hay is slow growing but the recent rainfall should be a help with the height.

Strawberries are in bloom and some early varieties have small berries appearing. Raspberries are in the bud stage. Apple blossoms are almost over. Now the fruit will be starting to form on all fruit crops. Some sweet corn has been planted.

Overall Adams County had a nice week of weather for our crops.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Good weather this week for all kinds of field work (planting corn and soybeans, making haylage and alfalfa hay). Most of the full season corn has been planted. A good week for all to enjoy the outdoors.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Corn planting began in earnest last week. Wheat is looking good, grass hay growing well. Farmers are scrambling to make up for the two weeks of water-logged soils. Showers over the weekend will activate pre-emergent herbicides.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - This was a good week to get the crops planted. Oat plantings should be done and good progress is being made on planting corn and potatoes. The oats are peeking out of the ground. A couple showers during the week, but they were brief and spotty.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick A. Decker - Great week to continue field work. 7/8" rain fall in my gauge. Some rye being harvested for silage. Most corn has emerged.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Excellent week for field work. Small grain planting should be just about complete. Most of the focus this week was on corn planting. Field conditions this year have been excellent for planting compared to previous years. Orchard grass for baleage has begun by some dairy producers trying to take advantage of the higher protein forage along with the good weather for harvest.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, John Rowehl - A much needed rainfall Thursday evening with varying amounts across the area.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Notice some of the hay crop is starting into boot stage. Many farmers finish planting small grains and are planting corn. Light frost Sunday morning and predicting again another frost on Monday.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - Widespread and variable showers last week north of Peter's Mountain didn't keep field work from progressing. Corn emergence has been excellent. Weevils are starting to show significant injury to some, but not all, fields. Alfalfa is ready for harvest. Will need to watch stubble for rescue treatments in some fields. Majority of area is experiencing early season drought. No-till fields definitely have advantage at this time. Worked ground is dry.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill (EXT) - Corn planted prior to April 26th has had some crusting and emergence problems, especially conventionally planted but also some No-till which had aggressive colters.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr (NRCS) - A good week for field work; lots of corn was planted. The severe weather did not affect Lancaster as it did counties to the north. Lots of rye/age harvested.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - Excellent week for field work. Primary and secondary tillage, corn planting and spraying were the most common activities. Half inch of rain Saturday night helped refresh things. Rye is heading and mowing will begin soon for straw.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA) - Very good week for field work. Seedings are finished and corn is starting to be planted. Hay seems to be growing slow. This could be due to frost a few mornings.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The weather was ideal for many field activities. Corn and soybean planting was at a very rapid pace with many acres being planted. The barley has begun heading and the wheat is growing very well. However, the alfalfa weevils have become very active, with some fields on the southern slopes being stripped. Rains in the range of .5 to 1 inch on Thursday slowed the field activities, while the temperatures were favorable. A very good week.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump (NRCS) - Several producers have expressed concerns the field conditions are becoming dry. Others are telling me that they are pleased with the growth of forage in their pastures.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - The first week this spring without rain has allowed growers to catch up some with planting. In fact by week's end, some rain would be welcomed to keep everything growing.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 13, 2007

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	79	92	84
Corn, planted	62	73	60
Corn, emerged	21	31	21
Barley, heading or headed	63	90	74
Wheat, heading or headed	22	44	28
Oats, planted	91	97	90
Oats, emerged	44	64	62
Soybeans, planted	19	23	20
Tobacco beds, planted	69	100	100
Potatoes, planted	59	72	59
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	13	19	10
Peaches, in full bloom or past	100	100	80
Cherries, in full bloom or past	99	100	77
Apples, in full bloom or past	99	100	77

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 13, 2007

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	1	15	61	23
Wheat	0	2	13	66	19
Oats	0	5	35	59	1
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	4	20	57	18
Timothy clover stand	0	4	22	62	12
Quality of hay made	0	2	2	37	59
Pasture	4	7	25	43	21

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